



# 7. Description

Survey No. A4-825D

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The George Downs House (Tenant Hse.#4) is the youngest of the surviving Ivy Neck Tenant Houses. Built about 1920\*, it is much more commodious than the older tenant houses on the farm. One-and-a-half stories tall, it has about 900 square feet of living space including, on the first floor, two parlors, an entry stairhall, and<sup>a</sup>pantry, and two bedrooms and a hall on the second floor. Large windows and relatively high ceilings make for well-lighted rooms. The partitioned entry hall separates strangers at the front door from the private living space within, instead of having the door open directly upon that private space as happens in the other Ivy Neck tenant houses. The stairway is broad and straight instead of narrow and wrap-around. The first-floor doors are 6'5" tall, compared with 6'3" at Tenant Hse.#1 and 5'7½" at Tenant Hse.#3. There are even some decorative embellishments in Tenant House #4 such as horizontal-board wainscotting capped by a chair rail, and a built-in corner cupboard in one of the parlors. The house had a partial width front porch, now collapsed. It has two small stove chimneys, one in the west end of each parlor, a raised-seam tin roof, cedar shingle siding, 6-over-6 windows with 7½"x9½"panes, and hardwood floors.

According to oral testimony by Sam Neal Jr., Sam Neal Sr. with his wife and four youngest children occupied this house from 1930 until 1943. Sam Neal Jr. and his wife were living next door in Tenant Hse.#1 during the same period. Both men had begun tenant-farming at Ivy Neck in 1918, walking there daily from Owensville until 1930 when they moved their families to Ivy Neck.

Between 1943 and 1952, several other families moved in and out of Ivy Neck Tenant Hse.#4, including Al Sims for one year, and John Johnson in about 1950.

About 1952, George Downs and his sister Becky moved from Ivy Neck Tenant Hse.#2 into Tenant Hse.#4, and stayed there until 1966 when the Smithsonian acquired 330 acres of Ivy Neck farmland including this tenant house. The house has been vacant and deteriorating ever since.

\* It is visible in a 1921 aerial photo.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-225D

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name South River, MD 1957; revised 1978

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Wetherill, Volunteer

organization Anne Arundel Co. Committee/MHT

date 11/87

street & number P.O. Box 1573

telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Annapolis

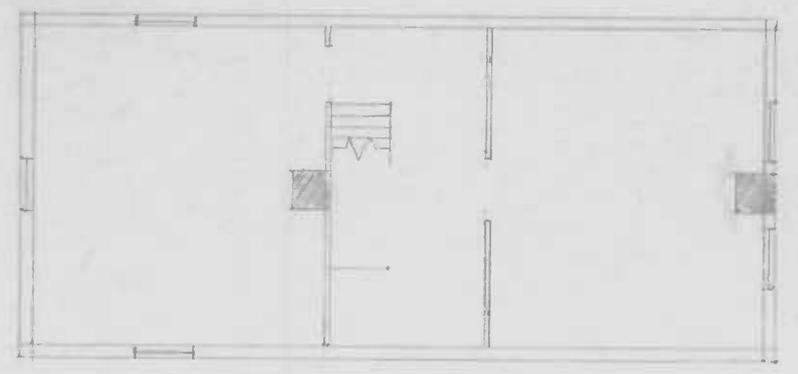
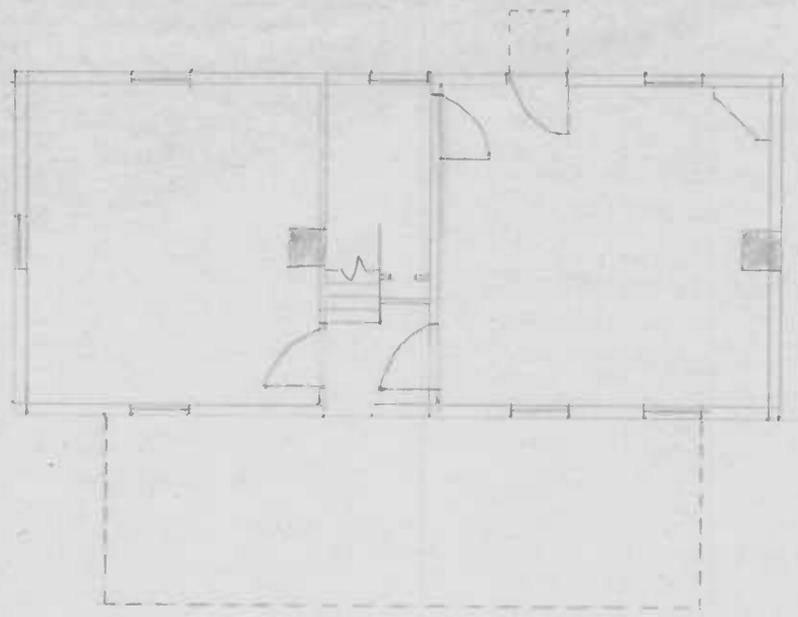
state MD 21404

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

AA-225D



SCALE  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$

EXTERIOR WALL LENGTH TO SCALE  
DIVISIONS AND DETAIL NOT TO SCALE

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IVY NECK FARM  
TENANT HOUSE # 4  
WEST RIVER, MARYLAND

FEBRUARY 22, 1985



USGS Map, South River, MD. Quad.  
 1957, Revised 1978  
 Scale 1:24,000

AA. 225 D  
 Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4  
 Cumberstone



AA. 225D

George Downs House  
(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A. A. Co., MD

S. Weatherill 2/85

facade, N. elev.



AA-225D

Ivy Neck #4 / George Downs Hse.

A. A. Co. MD

S. Wetherill 1/85

facade, N. elev.



AA. 225 D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Iny Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A.A.Co. MD.

S. Wedheill, 2/85

SE corner



AA. 225D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

A.A. Co. MD

S. Wetherill, 1/85

NW Corner

1902



AA-225 D

GEORGE DOWNS HOUSE

(Ivy Neck Tenant Hse. #4)

G. A. Co. MD.

S. Wetherill, 1/85

detail, south elev.